

**N.H. EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES  
COORDINATING BOARD**

**Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy  
222 Sheep Davis Road  
Concord, NH 03301**

**“APPROVED MINUTES”**

**March 17, 2005**

**Members Present:** Joe Sabato, MD (Chair), Steve Achilles (Vice Chair), Al Burbank, Dave Dubey, Dave Duquette, Fred Heinrich, Dave Hogan, Janet Houston, Ken Howe, MD, Donald E. Johnson, DMD, Doug Martin, Richard Mason, Director, Joe Mastromarino, MD, Doug McVicar, MD, Jackie Normile, Sue Prentiss, Bureau Chief, Susan Reeves, John Sutton, MD

**Members Absent:** Eileen Bartlett, Karen Lord, Shawn Mitchell, Dianne Roberts, Norman Yanofsky, MD

**Guests:**

**Bureau Staff:** Vicki Blanchard, ALS Coordinator; Liza Burrill, Education Coordinator; Kathy Doolan, Field Services Coordinator. Clay Odell, Trauma Coordinator; Eric Perry, Field Services Representative, Wanda Botticello, Executive Secretary, Cindy Castagnino, Secretary II

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Item 1.** The meeting of the EMS & Trauma Services Coordinating Board was called to order by Dr. Sabato on March 17, 2005 at 1:10 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy in Concord, NH.

Dr. Sabato requested that the agenda be rearranged to accommodate a presentation from the Fire Marshal on “Safe” cigarettes and the Burn registry, and to hear from Director Mason as he must leave for an additional meeting.

All agreed to the agenda change.

Fire Marshal Bill Degnan presented handouts to the group and discussed the Burn Registry and the “Safe” cigarette bill that is upcoming.

Director Mason presented the upcoming legislation effecting EMS: House Bill 257 is the proposal to take protocols out of rule. It has passed the Committee on Health and Human Services and is before the House Committee. This would remove "local option" and create prerequisites, request an exemption from 541 for a fast track process and defines a quality management process.

Senate Bill 88 would add an additional level of licensure for registered nurses working in the inter-facility hospital transfer setting.

Discussion also took place concerning the seat belt legislation and that the Dept. of Safety supports this bill which came before the House Transportation Committee and was voted 17 to 2 to expedite this bill.

Director Mason then mentioned a new structure for the meeting and minutes that he would like to see implemented. All Board member sit at the main grouping of tables so that those taking minutes can hear and see who is speaking and for all those who do speak to introduce themselves prior to speaking so that it is documented on tape and for the recorder of minutes. The "Right to Know" law requires that minutes be available to the public within 144 hours of a meeting, with this in mind a more efficient process needs to be adhered to and we will do our best to make the deadline.

R. Mason then introduced the newest Board member Don, Johnson, DMD from Peterborough, NH and stated that he would return to this meeting later in the day.

Dr. Sabato took the moment to also introduced Dr. Ken Howe from Nashua as a new member representing the College of Surgeons, taking the place of Clare Wilmot.

Introductions of all others present at the meeting were then conducted.  
(return to regular agenda order)

## **II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Item 1. January 20, 2005 minutes:** A motion was made by D. Dubey to accept the minutes as written, D. Hogan seconded the motion but did ask that they be changed to reflect that he in fact was present at the January meeting. Motion with amendment passed.

## **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Item 2. NH EMS Medical Control Board Report**

Dr. Mastromarino stated that the medical control board meeting this morning focussed on review of the patient care protocols. Items that had come up at the recent rollout meetings were discussed and changes

made. It was mentioned that will be easy to make the corrections to the protocols, due to publishing on the web site. A single page can be replaced as corrections are made, then an e-mail can be blanketed to all recipients to notify them of the change. If all goes well the changes will be available later this week.

The MCB also made a recommendation to add a Braslow tape to the mandatory ambulance equipment list as many protocols refer to size/weight of pediatric patients. It was suggested that a generic version of the Braslow be researched so as not to be tied to one type of tape.

This potential addition will come before the Coordinating Board (CB) at the next meeting as it is a rule change and the CB needs to review recommendations for changes to rules before they are submitted to the Commissioner.

### **Item 3. NH Bureau of EMS (NHBEMS) Report**

Chief Prentiss gave the NHBEMS report further discussing Senate Bill 88. The nurse who brought this forward would like to have this put on the agenda for the next meeting. This is a big transport issue in the North Country. There were no objections to discussing this at the next meeting.

Chief Prentiss deferred the rest of her time to C. Odell who recently represented the Bureau at a meeting on the National Registry's computer adaptive testing proposal.

**(please see the Bureau Report in the folder for additional details)**

C. Odell delivered a slide presentation on the National Registry computer adaptive testing project. The National Registry is changing from pencil and paper testing to computer testing. New Hampshire uses the National Registry exams for all levels – First Responder through Paramedic. The meeting discussion covered the added security, exam fees, access issues, exam locations, the shortened results-time, lessened test anxiety and administration barriers.

Many concerns and questions arose from the Board -

The added cost, additional trips to the exam site(s) for practical and written testing, general computer anxiety for some and availability of additional testing sites were among them. Many felt that an alternative plan by the Bureau was going to be needed.

**J. Sabato made a motion**, to have the presentation put onto the web site with a notice that this is under consideration. Also, to design some survey to get the input from providers, directors, etc, so we can deal on the issues raised. **Seconded by Sue Reeves**. Discussion ensued to amend the motion to also say that we should develop or investigate realistic

alternatives with estimated costs. Possibly locate funding source to subsidize the testing process. The Board also agreed that a future discussion on staying with the National Registry should take place.

The motion is to have the presentation placed on the web site with a notice going out to the EMS community to let them know that it's there and add a survey to look at the points related to implementation or alternatives. **Motion passed with one member, S. Achilles, opposed.**

**Item 4. Legislation Update – (see Bureau report and Director Mason's report listed above – refer also to the written Bureau report)**

**Item 5. TEMSIS Update – (please see written report)**

**Item 6. Safety Subcommittee Report**

S. Achilles stated that Traffic Safety Presentation was made available after last May's video conference and the 2003 North Country Conference. Would like the Bureau to report on how many participants have taken the presentation to other providers and the total number reported that have been trained.

J. Sabato asked that a draft community policy be completed so departments could use it and would not have to "reinvent the wheel" if they were going to implement such changes.

S. Achilles offered the Seacoast Chiefs Fire Officers draft that has recently been completed on Vehicle Positioning Traffic Safety. He will ask for permission to share the document with this Board and present at next meeting.

**Item 7. Board Appointment Status Report**

K. Doolan stated that the Governor's office has approved 16 members. There are three members in process of being approved and two that have not responded. Dianne Roberts is also considering resigning and finding an alternate member to represent the "Public".

**Item 8. Tracking and Evaluation of Disaster Training Discussion**

Dr. Sabato asked if the State had a training program for EMS disaster training, and what the State response plan is? No one present had a specific response and discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Fred Heinrich** to request that the Bureau create an outline of proposed training programs and a response plan for EMS with regards to a disaster/mass casualty response program. **Seconded by Steve Achilles.**

Discussion amended having a list of programs that should be offered to include obtaining information on what other state agencies have for plans. This Board will review this information. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 9. CDC APHA EMS and Public Health Project**

The Center for Disease Control has funds that they are using to create a national working group to have EMS work more closely with Public Health issues and to educate Public Health personnel for a better understanding of EMS. J. Sabato will keep the Board posted on this project.

**Item 10. Items of Interest**

D. McVicar, J. Sutton and J. Sabato, will join the Fire Commissioners at a meeting with the Commissioner of Safety in June – this is being set up by Director Mason.

K. Doolan has EMS week packets available today for anyone interested, the packet includes the annual EMS Awards information and nomination form.

D. Hogan met with Dr. Parker at Cheshire Medical Center yesterday for three hours, and M. Parker would like to roll out the new protocols to the paramedics, as is. This is exciting for the area.

S. Achilles asked to revisit the issue of trading times with the Medical Control Board. There was some discussion but many felt that the logistics of switching may be difficult. D. Dubey suggested combining the boards for one part of the day, so that information typically reported the same at each meeting could be reported once. D. McVicar agreed that there may be some room to accommodate this suggestion, that it will be discussed further by the Chairs of the two Boards and reported back upon.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by J. Sabato and **seconded** by S. Achilles to adjourn. Unanimous agreement adjourned at 2:50 on March 17, 2005.

**V. NEXT MEETING**

May 19, 2005 Location TBA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne M. Prentiss, Bureau Chief, EMS

(Prepared by Cindy Castagnino, Secretary II / K. Doolan, Field Services )